Claims 1-23 (Cancelled)

Claim 24 (Previously Presented)   A content distribution system comprising:

a license management server;

a relay server; and

a terminal device,

wherein the license management server includes at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a first license generation unit generating, in a first format, a first license for controlling content use in the terminal device;

a modification detection information generation unit generating a digital signature for detecting a modification of the first license and sending the generated digital signature to the relay server, depending on a status of a transmission path to the terminal device;

a specification information receiving unit receiving an input of format specification information that is an instruction, to the terminal device, for converting a format of a second license to the first format; and

a specification information sending unit sending the received format specification information to the relay server,

wherein the relay server includes at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a second license generation unit (i) generating, in a second format, the second license by adding, to the first license, the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license, the second format being different from the first format, and (ii) adding, to the

2

generated second license, the format specification information received by the license management server, and

wherein the terminal device includes at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a format conversion unit obtaining the second license from the relay server and converting the format of the second license into the first format, according to the format specification information added to the second license;

a judgment unit judging a presence or absence of the modification of the first license using the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license having a format converted from the second format into the first format by the format conversion unit; and

a use unit using the content according to the first license when the judgment unit judges that no modification is made.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented)   The content distribution system according to claim 24, when (i) a frequency band of the transmission path is narrower than a frequency band predetermined by a characteristic of the transmission path, or (ii) a communication speed of the transmission path is slower than a communication speed predetermined by the characteristic of the transmission path, the modification detection information generation unit sends the generated digital signature to the relay server and instructs the relay server to generate the second license.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented)   The content distribution system according to claim 25, wherein the second license generation unit generates the second license so that a data size of the second license generated in the second format is smaller than a data size of the first license generated in the first format.

3

Claim 27 (Previously Presented)   The content distribution system according to claim 24,

wherein the at least one processor of the relay server is programmed to operates as a second sending unit sending the second license to the terminal device via the transmission path different from the transmission path in the case of using the license management server, and

wherein the at least one processor of the terminal device is programmed to obtain the second license from the second sending unit.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented)   The content distribution system according to claim 24, further comprising a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers being the relay server,

wherein the at least one processor of each of the plurality of relay servers is programmed to operate as an "n"th license generation unit generating an "n"th ("n" is a natural number that is 2 or greater) license, in an "n"th format, by adding, to the first license, the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license, the "n"th format being different from the first format, and

wherein the format conversion unit of the terminal device obtains the "n"th license from one relay server of the plurality of relay servers and converts the format of the "n"th license into the first format.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended)   A license management server of a content distribution system including the license management server, a relay server, and a terminal device, the license management server including at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a first license generation unit generating, in the first format, a first license for controlling content us in the terminal device;

a modification detection information generation unit generating a digital signature of the first license, sending the generated digital signature to the relay server, depending on a status of a transmission path to the terminal device, and instructing the relay server to generate a second license;

a specification information receiving unit receiving an input of format specification information that is an instruction, to the terminal device, for converting a format of the second license into the first format; and

a specification information sending unit sending the received format specification information to the relay server,

wherein the at least one processor of the license management server is programmed to distribute the first license for controlling the content use in the terminal device,

wherein at least one processor of the relay server is programmed to generate, in a second format, the second license by adding, to the first license, a digital signature for detecting a modification of the first license, the second format being different from the first format, add, to the generated second license, format specification information, and distribute the second license, and

wherein at least one processor of the terminal device is programmed to generate the first license by format transformation by obtaining the second license and converting the second license from the second format into the first format using the format specification information, detect a presence or absence of the modification of the generated first license using the digital

signature for detecting the modification of the first license, and, when no modification is detected, use the content according to the first license[[,]].

Claim 30 (Previously Presented)   The license management server according to claim 29, when (i) a frequency band of the transmission path is narrower than a frequency band predetermined by a characteristic of the transmission path, or (ii) a communication speed of the transmission path is slower than a communication speed predetermined by the characteristic of the transmission path, the modification detection information generation unit sends the generated digital signature to the relay server and instructs the relay server to generate the second license

Claim 31 (Previously Presented)   The license management server according to claim 30, wherein the second license is generated so that a data size of the second license generated in the second format is smaller than a data size of the first license generated in the first format.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented)   A relay server of a content distribution system including a license management server, the relay server, and a terminal device, wherein the license management server includes at least one processor programmed to distribute a first license for controlling content use in the terminal device, wherein the relay server generates, in a second format, a second license generated by adding, to the first license, a digital signature for detecting a modification of the first license, the second format being different from a first format, and distributes the second license, wherein the terminal device generates the first license by format transformation by obtaining the second license and converting the second license from the second format into the

first format using format specification information, detects a presence or absence of the modification of the generated first license using the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license, and, when no modification is detected, uses the content according to the first license, and

wherein the relay server includes at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a second license generation unit generating, in the second format different from the first format, the second license by adding, to the first license generated in the first format, the digital signature of the first license received from the license management server, receiving an input of the format specification information from the license management server, the format specification information being an instruction, to the terminal device, for converting the format of the second license to the first format, and adding the received format specification information to the generated second license; and

a second license sending unit sending the generated second license to the terminal device.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented)   The relay server according to claim 32, wherein the second license sending unit sends the second license to the terminal device via a transmission path different from the license management server.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented)   A terminal device of a content distribution system including a license management server, a relay server, and the terminal device,

wherein the license management server includes at least one processor programmed to distribute a first license for controlling content use in the terminal device,

7

wherein the relay server generates a second license in a second format, by adding, to the first license, a digital signature for detecting a modification of the first license, the second format being different from a first format, and distributes the second license,

wherein the terminal device uses the content according to the first license by obtaining the second license and generates the first license using format conversion, and

wherein the terminal device includes at least one processor programmed to operate as:

a format conversion unit obtaining the second license generated in the second format from the relay server, and converting a format of the obtained second license into the first format different from the second format so as to generate the first license according to format specification information that is an instruction to the terminal device for converting the format of the second license to the first format, and that is added to the second license;

a judging unit judging a presence or absence of the modification of the generated first license using the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license added to the second license; and

a use unit using the content according to the first license, when the judgment unit judges that no modification is made.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented)   A license distribution method of using a content distribution system including a license management server, a relay server and a terminal device, the license distribution method comprising using at least one processor of the content distribution system to perform:

generating, in a first format, a first license for controlling content use in the terminal device, the generation being executed by the license management server;

generating a digital signature for detecting a modification of the first license and sending the generated digital signature to the relay server, depending on a condition of a transmission path to the terminal device, the generating and sending being executed by the license management server;

receiving an input of format specification information that is an instruction, to the terminal device, for converting a format of a second license to the first format, the receiving of the input of the format specification information being executed by the license management server;

sending the received format specification information to the relay server, the sending of the received format specification information being executed by the license management server;

generating the second license in a second format different from the first format by adding, to the first license, the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license, and adding the format specification information received by the license management server to the generated second license, the generation of the second license and the adding of the format specification information being executed by the relay server;

converting the format of the second license into the first format by obtaining the second license from the relay server, according to the format specification information added to the second license, the converting of the format being executed by the terminal device;

judging a presence or absence of the modification of the first license using the digital signature for detecting the modification of the first license having a format converted from the second format into the first format, the judging of the presence or absence of the modification being executed by the terminal device; and

using the content according to the first license, when the judging judges that there is an absence of the modification, the using of the content according to the first license being executed by the terminal device.